



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
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TITRE/TITLE: Pre-Inquiry Engagement Process – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Support for the Minister

SOMMAIRE EXÉCUTIF/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- An internal virtual team of senior officials and lawyers from the Department of Justice has been set up to provide support to you during the pre-inquiry engagement process.
- This memo sets out the composition of expertise, and aspects of the work currently underway, and specific supports to be provided to you in upcoming engagement meetings.
- The Family, Children and Youth Section (FCY) in the Policy Sector has coordinated justice advice and input to ensure consistency.
- Beyond providing input to documents being prepared for the pre-inquiry engagement process, a summary note will be prepared for you on each province to which you will travel for meetings with families, [REDACTED]
- Should questions be raised concerning earlier inquiries, jurisdictional restrictions on federal inquiries, law enforcement or justice system responses, etc., FCY would be able to assist you in providing information and responses.

s.23

Soumis par (secteur)/Submitted by (Sector): Policy Sector
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FOR INFORMATION

2015-015546

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

Pre-Inquiry Engagement Process – Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – Support for the Minister

ISSUE

An internal virtual team of senior officials and lawyers from the Department of Justice has been set up to provide support to you during the pre-inquiry engagement process. This memo sets out the composition of expertise, and aspects of the work currently underway, and specific supports to be provided to you in upcoming engagement meetings.

BACKGROUND

Composition of expertise

The Family, Children and Youth Section (FCY) in the Policy Sector has been charged with coordinating justice advice and input on violence against Indigenous women and girls, including the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, to ensure consistency. FCY coordinated the Government of Canada work in this area from 2010-2015, and has continued to coordinate the Department of Justice work, and participate in interdepartmental work with Public Safety Canada (including the RCMP), Status of Women (SWC), Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Health Canada. FCY is also involved in related federal-provincial-territorial work.

The team assembled to support you includes representatives from: the Policy Sector (experts from the criminal law, family law, youth justice, victim services, programs and statistics and research); the Public Law Sector (experts from the Constitutional, Administrative and International Law Section on both constitutional and administrative law, and from the Human Rights Law Section); the Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio; Departmental Legal Service Units at the RCMP and INAC; and the Communications Branch. Other departmental experts are also available to be called upon as required, for example, experts in litigation, privacy law, as well as experts at the RCMP, Public Safety and the Public Prosecution Service of Canada.

s.69(1)(g) re (a)

Aspects of work currently underway

A senior official from the Department was present at the first meetings with the families on December 11, 2015, and with the National Aboriginal organizations and provinces and territories

s.21(1)(a)

s.21(1)(b)

s.23

s.69(1)(g) re (a)

on December 16, 2015. Going forward, departmental officials will continue to participate in a weekly call led by INAC, which also includes SWC, Health Canada, Public Safety, and the RCMP on the pre-inquiry engagement process. While there is no set agenda for these calls, to date discussions have centred around planning for the meetings, discussion of documents, and next steps. Justice officials will also attend the planned roundtable meeting on Commissions of Inquiry (date to be determined).

Specific supports to be provided to you in upcoming engagement meetings

A summary note will be prepared for you on each province to which you will travel for meetings with families and others,

The team will consult with the relevant experts to develop information and/or answers for your use. For example, should questions be raised concerning earlier inquiries, jurisdictional restrictions on federal inquiries, law enforcement or justice system responses, etc., the departmental team would be able to assist you in providing information and responses.

CONSIDERATIONS

The above process will provide you with specific information in advance of the meetings, and a mechanism to answer any questions or information points that are raised with you.

CONCLUSION

Support will be provided for your engagement meetings, as outlined above, to ensure timely and consistent legal and legal policy advice is made available to you.

PREPARED BY

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